



## RECEPTION OF MESSAGE

Only Faint Applause Follows the Reading of the Document.

## REFERRED TO A COMMITTEE

Representative Bailey Asks if the Message is Accompanied by Any of the Diplomatic Correspondence. It is Sent to the Foreign Affairs Committee.

The reading of the message occupied just forty minutes. Applause, not at all vociferous, followed the clerk's last words.

Representative Bailey arose to inquire if the President had submitted any of the diplomatic correspondence.

He was answered in the negative. Without a dissenting voice the message was then referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, pursuant to a previous motion of Mr. Adams, acting chairman of the committee.

Disorder at once prevailed in the House.

The members were not noisy, but simply declined to display any interest in minor business.

The absence of any excitement or outburst of great applause, either in the galleries or on the floor, was the most striking feature of the day.

During the reading of the message Representative Grosvenor, of Ohio, buried himself in the depths of a newspaper and gave literally no heed to the voice of the clerk.

Others on the Republican side displayed indifference to a like degree, but on the Democratic side every member sat in wrapt and intense attention.

The House Committee on Foreign Relations was granted the right to sit continuously during sessions of the House on the subject of the President's message and its recommendations will be taken up without delay.

At 12:50 the reading of the message was concluded in the Senate.

Mr. Davis then moved that the message be referred to the Foreign Relations Committee.

Senator Mason gave notice that at the proper time he would offer a resolution for Cuban independence.

Senator Butler of North Carolina declared in a speech that the message was a great disappointment to the American people. It never was meant, he charged, to bring about the independence of Cuba. Mr. Butler said later that he would have more to say. He then offered a resolution to the effect that the destruction of the Maine was an act of war on the part of Spain, and that Cuba's independence be recognized.

The resolution demands also that the President use the land and naval forces of the United States to avenge the death of the Maine victims and to drive Spain off this continent.

At 1:35 p. m., the Senate adjourned.

**Insane Guest's Queer Action.**  
Chicago, April 11.—William Goelter, of Wilkesbarre, Pa., became insane while a guest of Conroy's Hotel, on State Street yesterday and threw a washstand, wash-bowl, pitcher and part of the bed of his room through the window. He was locked up at the detention hospital.

## THE MEN TO WHOM THE MESSAGE WAS REFERRED.



SENATOR DAVIS.

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS.

CUSHMAN K. DAVIS, of Minnesota, Chairman.

WILLIAM P. FRYE, of Maine.

SHELBY M. CULLOM, of Illinois.

HENRY CABOT LODGE, of Massachusetts.

CLARENCE D. CLARK, of Wyoming.

JOSEPH B. FORAKER, of Ohio.

JOHN T. MORGAN, of Alabama.

GEORGE GRAY, of Delaware.

DAVID TURPIE, of Indiana.

JOHN W. DANIEL, of Virginia.

ROGER Q. MILLS, of Texas.

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

ROBERT R. HITT, of Illinois, Chairman.

ROBERT ADAMS, Jr., of Pennsylvania.

LEMUEL E. QUIGG, of New York.

ROBERT G. COUSINS, of Iowa.

WILLIAM ALDEN SMITH, of Michigan.

JOEL P. HEATWOLE, of Minnesota.

RICHMOND PEARSON, of North Carolina.

FREDERICK H. GILLET, of Massachusetts.

CHARLES L. HENRY, of Indiana.

HUGH A. DINSMORE, of Arkansas.

FRANCIS G. NEWLANDS, of Nevada.

CHAMP CLARK, of Missouri.

JOHN S. WILLIAMS, of Mississippi.

ALBERT S. BERRY, of Kentucky.

WILLIAM M. HOWARD, of Georgia.



ROBERT R. HITT.

## OPINIONS ON THE MESSAGE.

The message was received coldly by all except the Administration allies. Five minutes after the reading was concluded the corridors were filled with angry representatives from both sides of the House. Indignation meetings were held in every corner of the House corridors.

"What do you think of the message?" Representative Bailey of Texas was asked.

"Don't ask me," he replied. "I just smile. I can afford to smile because it isn't serious."

Representative Lents was interviewed by a Times reporter.

"What will your side of the House do? Will you now carry an independence resolution over the President's head?"

"What we want," replied Mr. Lents, "is a recognition of the independence of Cuba. Nothing short of that will receive our sanction."

"In the first place, McKinley misrepresented the American people when he sent the Maine to Havana. But when it was

blown up by Spanish treachery our duty was to recognize Cuban independence.

"If we delay such action longer, why then, just that much longer we are making dough-faces of ourselves. In his message McKinley quotes Jackson for precedent. If an American seaman had lost an arm through like treachery the independence of Cuba would have been instantly recognized had Jackson sat in the chair."

The "prop" applause that followed the reading of the message came exclusively from the Republican side of the House, and was not unanimous even there. It reminded one of a bevy of "gallery gods" trying to win favor for a poor actor at so much per each burst of applause.

Republicans and Democrats agree that the message is wishy-washy, and has its clouded purpose in the interest of delay. Indignation grows with each succeeding hour. Influence is being brought to bear on the Foreign Affairs Committee to have it delay action for a day or two. There is

able to be a bolt at almost any minute.

The situation is approaching a swift and certain climax.

The opinion everywhere expressed, is that the message itself is patriotic in tone, but that the codicil damns the entire 6,000 words of it to its own level of a call for time and a hope that Spain will accomplish something of her own effort.

The President says in the message "the war must cease." He says in the codicil that if the armistice plan succeeds American should be satisfied. The only possible interpretation of this is that Mr. McKinley desires Congress to wait for a trial of Spain's new bluff.

People read the message as they stood on street corners, and their faces lighted with enthusiasm at portions of it. When they reached the last two paragraphs they gave vent to hot maledictions on the Administration that could so back down on account of so palpable a ruse, and there were fierce assertions that the whole message was a game of play to the gal-

leries in order that the last paragraphs might be received with better grace.

It is very evident that the Administration is still for peace at any price.

Congress will act on the message. It will not be governed in the slightest degree by the backdown. This opinion is expressed by congressmen and the people almost unanimously.

Congress may even be hurried by the pusillanimous last paragraph to fierce action. There is general hope that a straightforward declaration of war will be the result.

When the early part of the message was read people repeated this joke: "On Easter Sunday we said 'we won't do a thing to Morro' and that's no lie."

As they read the last disgraceful lines they ceased to joke.

The Cabinet met this morning early to see the message to Congress. It was stated by them that there was nothing else under consideration.

**Capt. Brant Sued by His Wife.**  
New York, April 11.—Mrs. Grace Pauling Brant, of No. 112 West Ninety-fifth Street, has begun suit for a separation from Capt. Louis Philip Brant, of the First United States Infantry, and formerly, Capt. Brant was stationed at the President, San Francisco, until a few days ago, and papers in the case were forwarded to California two weeks ago. He has sued for an absolute divorce in California.

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## THE MESSAGE

It Reaches Congress Exactly at Noon Today.

## IT IS READ IN BOTH HOUSES

Congress Asked to Empower the President to Act—Intervention, But Not at Once.

President McKinley transmitted his long-expected message to Congress exactly at noon today. It read as follows:

**To the Congress of the United States:**

Obedient to that precept of the Constitution which commands the President to give from time to time to the Congress information of the state of the Union, and to recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient, it becomes my duty now to address your body with regard to the grave crisis that has arisen in the relations of the United States to Spain by reason of the warfare that for more than three years has raged in the neighboring island of Cuba. I do so because of the intimate connection of the Cuban question with the state of our own Union and the grave relation the course which it is now incumbent upon the nation to adopt must needs bear to the traditional policy of our Government if it is to accord with the precepts laid down by the founders of the republic and religiously observed by succeeding administrations to the present day.

The present revolution is but the successor of other similar insurrections which have occurred in Cuba against the dominion of Spain, extending over a period of nearly half a century, each of which, during its progress, has subjected the United States to great effort and expense in enforcing its neutrality laws, caused enormous losses to American trade and commerce, caused irritation, annoyance and disturbance among our citizens, and by the exercise of cruel, barbarous and uncivilized practices of warfare, shocked the sensibilities and offended the humane sympathies of our people.

**Cuba Made Desolate.**

Since the present revolution began, in February, 1895, this country has seen the fertile domain at our threshold ravaged by fire and sword in the course of a struggle unequalled in the history of the island and rarely paralleled as to the number of the combatants and the bitterness of the contest by any revolution of modern times where a dependent people, striving to be free, have been opposed by the power of the sovereign state. Our people have beheld a once prosperous community reduced to comparative want, its lucrative commerce virtually paralyzed, its exceptional productiveness diminished, its fields laid waste, its mills in ruins, and its people perishing by tens of thousands from hunger and destitution. We have found ourselves constrained, in the observance of that strict neutrality which our laws enjoin and which the law of nations commands, to police our own waters and watch our own seaports in prevention of any unlawful act in aid of the Cubans. Our trade has suffered; the capital invested by our citizens in Cuba has been largely lost, and the temper and forbearance of our people have been sorely tried as to beget a perilous unrest among our own citizens, which has inevitably found its expression from time to time in the national legislature, so that issues wholly external to our own body politic engross attention and stand in the way of that close devotion to domestic advancement that becomes a self-contained commonwealth whose primal maxim has been the avoidance of all foreign entanglements. All this must needs awaken in and has indeed

aroused the utmost concern on the part of this Government, as well during my predecessor's term as in my own.

**Spain Refuses Friendly Offices.**

In April, 1896, the evils from which our country suffered through the Cuban war became so onerous that my predecessor made an effort to bring about a peace through the mediation of this Government in any way that might tend to an honorable adjustment of the contest between Spain and her revolted colony, on the basis of some effective scheme of self-government for Cuba, under the flag and sovereignty of Spain. It failed through the refusal of the Spanish government then in power to consider any form of mediation or indeed any plan of settlement which did not begin with the actual submission of the insurgents to the mother country, and then only on such terms as Spain herself might see fit to grant. The war continued unabated. The resistance of the insurgents was in no wise diminished.

**Work of Devastation.**

The efforts of Spain were increased, both by the dispatch of fresh leaders to Cuba and by the addition to the horrors of the strife of a new and inhuman phase happily unprecedented in the modern history of civilized Christian peoples. The policy of devastation and concentration, inaugurated by the captain general's hands on October 21, 1896, in the province of Pinar del Rio, was thence extended to embrace all of the island to which the power of the Spanish arms was able to reach by occupation or by military operations. The peasantry, including all dwelling in the open agricultural interior, were driven into the garrison towns or isolated places held by the troops. The raising and movement of provisions of all kinds were interdicted. The fields were laid waste, dwellings unroofed and fired, mills destroyed, and, in short, everything that could desolate the land and render it unfit for human habitation or support was commanded by one or the other of the contending parties, and executed by all the powers at their disposal.

**Result of Concentration.**

By the time the present Administration took office a year ago, reconcentration—so called—had been made effective over the better part of the four central and western provinces, Santa Clara, Matanzas, Havana and Pinar del Rio. The agricultural population, to the estimated number of 200,000 or more, was herded within the towns and their immediate vicinages, deprived of the means of support, rendered destitute of shelter, left poorly clad, and exposed to the most unsanitary conditions. As the scarcity of food increased with the devastation of the depopulated areas of production, destitution and want became misery and starvation. Month by month the death rate increased to an alarming ratio. By March, 1897, according to conservative estimates from official Spanish sources, the mortality among the reconcentrados, from starvation and the diseases thereto incident, exceeded 50 per centum of their total number. No practical relief was accorded to the destitute. The overburdened towns, already suffering from the general dearth, could give no aid. So-called "zones of civilization" established within the immediate area of effective military control about the cities and fortified camps proved illusory as a remedy for the suffering. The unfortunate, being for the most part women and children with aged and helpless men, encumbered by disease and hunger, could not have tilted the soil without tools, seed or

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